

Application No. 10/015,626  
Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-18 are presently active in this application, Claims 1, 3 and 4 having been amended and Claims 17-18 added by the present amendment. In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as based on non-enabling disclosure; Claims 1-7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Thoms et al (US 5,686,784); Claims 2-6, 8 and 13 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form; and Claim 16 was allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 and Claim 2 has been canceled. The dependency of Claims 3-4 has been corrected accordingly. In view of these changes, Claims 1 and Claims 3-13 dependent therefrom are believed to be allowable.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejection of Claims 14-15 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, because in Applicants' view the outstanding rejection is based on a misreading of the claim language in question and because clear support for the subject matter of these claims is provided in the disclosure of Figures 9A, 9B and 9C and the related description at page 26, line 1 through page 27, line 6 of the specification. In particular, the outstanding Office Action seems to base the outstanding rejection of Claims 14-15 on the basis that the disclosure does enable the claim language "the apertures of the auxiliary mask

having a minor-axis-direction diameter twice or more as large as the minor-axis-direction diameter of each electron beam passage aperture of the shadow mask body, **while providing an individual communication with the apertures of the shadow mask,**” despite the fact that the language emphasized in bold is not included in Claim 14. Instead, Claim 14 recites, “the apertures of the auxiliary mask having a minor-axis-direction diameter twice or more as large as the minor-axis-direction diameter of each electron beam passage aperture of the shadow mask body, *... the bridge portions of the auxiliary mask being superposed individually on the bridge portions of the shadow mask body.*-- The italicized language is understood consistent with the disclosure of Figure 9C as described in the paragraph linking pages 26-27 of the specification, and this disclosure is clearly enabling of the subject matter of Claim 14. Accordingly, the outstanding rejection of Claim 14 is traversed, and since there was no other ground for rejection of Claim 14, Claim 14 is also believed to be allowable.

Likewise, similar arguments exist in traversal of the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, and this rejection is likewise traversed for the reasons above noted with respect to Claim 15. Claim 15 is therefore also believed to be allowable.

New Claims 17 and 18 correspond to original Claims 14 and 15 re-written in independent form. Since there was no rejection on the merits of Claim 14-15, and in view of the traversal of the rejection of Claims 14-15 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for the reasons above noted, Claims 17-18 are also believed to be allowable.

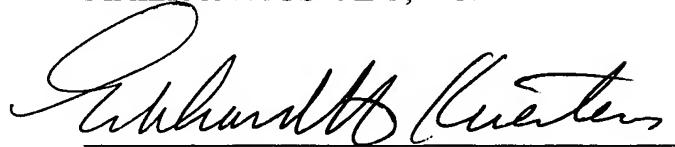
Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and the above comments, and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, no further issues are believed to be outstanding,

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and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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